

Koinonia *focus*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MOORELAND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH |
FEBRUARY 2020

We are to love no matter what.

Romell Williams is the senior pastor of Lilydale Progressive M.B. Church in Chicago, Illinois. He preached a sermon called “The Love Expression,” that teaches us to love others no matter what the condition or situation. Whether in easy times or in difficult times. We are to love no matter what.

“God is the source of love, Jesus is the proof of love, and believers must be the agents of love in this world. This biblically accurate statement must be the standard for our living, both within and outside of the church. We must show love to the lost in order to influence them with the gospel. But we must also share love with each other in order to encourage one another to keep the faith. God has done his part, Jesus is doing his part—are you doing yours? The love expression moves what's in our hearts and minds to how we speak, serve, and suffer, both for the good of others and to the glory of God.

Our concern must manifest itself in selfless behaviors that prove love amidst difficulty. Godly compassion, authentic devotion, and real love are best demonstrated in the storm, not in the sunshine. There is no room on the walk of faith for fair-weather friends. If we plan to be together, we have to be prepared to love one another when times get hard. There are too many people who will stand with you in the sunshine and leave you alone when it starts raining.”

1 John 3:16-18 (CSB Bible) ¹⁶ This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth.

Love One Another No Matter What,

David

Ancient Words for modern days

Paul gave the people words on which to stand during his time of ministry, words which are good for us today! The following are just a few exhortations: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort", "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed"; "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all

times, you may abound in every good work."; "rejoice, Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you."; "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."; "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."; "But God, being rich in mercy, because of

the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-by grace you have been saved"; "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."; "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God."; "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love"

"The effective prayer of a righteous person has great power."
James 5:16b

James 5:13
"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise."

2 Cor. 1:3, 2 Cor. 4:8&9, 2 Cor. 9:8, 2 Cor. 13:11b-12, Gal. 5:1, Gal 5:23-24, Eph. 2:4-5, Phil 4:4, Phil 4:6, Col. 3:12-14a NKJV

April Babies bring Showers



Brice & Stephanie Rasmussen are expecting their baby girl "Lily" to arrive April 6. To celebrate her coming, we are having a baby shower on March 22 at 2:00. They are decorating her room with Woodland Creatures. They have a baby gift registry at Amazon.com & Babylist.com. If you would like to be a hostess for this shower, contact Bev or the church office.



Jeremy & Danielle (Starr) Lay are expecting their baby boy "Isaiah" on April 16. To celebrate his coming, we are having a baby shower on February 16 at 2:00. They don't have a theme décor but she likes the cute baby dinosaur things that are popular. They are registered at Babylist.com and Target.com. If you would like to be a hostess for this shower, contact Bev or the office.



February Fellowship

It's a great month to have a Chili/Soup contest for those who love to show off their culinary skills and a great way for everyone else to reap the benefit of tasting all those wonderful pots of goodness! February 23, immediately following the morning worship service, we will have a contest for the best chili/soup. There will be prizes for the winners. Please let Sonja know if you have a soup for the competition. All other church members are asked to bring 2 dishes: Vegetables, salads, veggie/fruit trays, crackers, cornbread, desserts, etc. Bring a friend and your appetite as we fellowship together.

Prayer Power

Every month, our Church has a special day set where the men and women of the church get together for the purpose of prayer. The men have set the second Saturday of the month as their special day. They meet in the Fellowship Hall at 7 a.m. and enjoy a hot breakfast that a few of the guys have cooked up. After breakfast, they get down to the business of intercessory prayer. If you have a prayer request, be sure to let them know. This month they meet February 8.

The ladies alternate their prayer times and day of the week. One month, they will have a prayer brunch which is often held two weeks following the men's breakfast. The brunch begins at 9. The next month, they will have a salad supper in the evening at 6. The salad suppers are on either Tuesday or Thursday. For the ladies meals, they each bring in a variety of favorite dishes for the occasion, although it is not required. If you don't have time or feel up to bringing a dish, there is Always more than enough food for all to enjoy. Following their meal, they have a time of singing praise, sharing needs and heart felt prayer. If you have a prayer request for the ladies to pray, they will be glad to voice your prayer concern. This month they are having a salad supper on February 20.

Father of mercies, God of all comfort II Corinthians 1:3b

In my worry, God you are my stillness

In my searching, God you are my answers

In my blindness, God you are my vision

In my bondage, God you are my freedom

In my weakness, God you are my power

FBC Mooreland Students

In a world that is utterly focused on building a façade so that outsiders only see our lives through the filter that we desire them to see. It can be easy for us to focus on the trials, the bad things, what has gone wrong and honestly, it just makes us more miserable. Scott Hechinger, a Brooklyn public defender recently tweeted a question, “What, if anything, gives you hope?”

The responses were varied and profound. The following are a few of the responses:

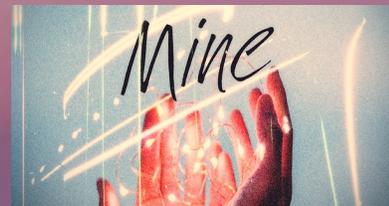
- “Random acts of kindness. More and more I see people covering groceries or gas when a stranger falls short or has their card declined. Nothing fights back against hopelessness like knowing someone, even a stranger, will have your back “
- “The gentle glow of human resilience in the shadows of tragic experiences. Those who've gone through hell seem to become the most authentic people you'll ever meet. They're the ones who help others without wanting. Even if they have nothing they'll give you kindness. “
- “Children asking questions & the bright looks on their faces, like the answer- no matter what it is- couldn't possibly be anything less than magical.”
- “Gen Z”

What gives you hope? For me, it's knowing that all of the trials are God's way of honing me and teaching me to be more like Him. Another thing that gives me hope is that as a believer in Christ, I have assurance of eternal life with Him (1 John 5:13-14). Focus on the hope that we have in Christ, not on the fakeness of the world.

-Brice



Sunday Mornings in February: Hopefully you know Bible names like David, Jonah, Paul, and Esther but this month we will take a deep dive on Biblical people that you've probably never heard of before.



Wed Nights in February: Have you ever wondered how to grow your faith? Well, the good news is there isn't just one way! And you don't have to figure it out on your own— Jesus gave us all an example of what it looks like to grow our faith in God. In this series, we'll take a look at a few things Jesus taught us that can help us grow a faith of our own



March:

18th-19th: Falls Creek Service Project

TBA: Spring Break Party/Hang Out

TBA: Super Summer Interviews

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Valentine's Banquet

It's that time again for church members and guests to come and enjoy a night of food and fun. The Deacon Valentine Banquet has been slated for February 9, at 6:00 p.m. The menu includes roasted ham & smoked brisket, with baked potato, and vegetable. All men are asked to help with desserts, serving and clean-up. Entertainment will follow with several variety acts by true professionals. Our talented chef-type men, will make their own desserts, some desserts will be disguised as to who made them.

We are asking membership to please sign up in the office (RSVP), by Wednesday, February 5, so that we have enough food. Junior High and High School age students are welcome to attend with a parent. Child care will be provided for those 6th grade and below in the nursery or youth room. The Deacons hope that all will attend and have an enjoyable evening of fun & fellowship.